

REMARKS

Amendments To The Specification

Page 1 of the specification is amended in accordance with Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("MPEP") § 201.11.

Paragraphs beginning respectively on pages 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the specification are amended to conform with amendments made during prosecution of prior priority applications.

Paragraphs beginning respectively on pages 3, 4 and 5 of the specification are amended to conform the section of the application entitled "Disclosure of Invention" with the text of new claims 40-77 added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Amendment To The Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure is amended to conform with the text of new claims 40-77 added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments To The Claims

New claims 40-77 encompass a particular embodiment of the invention as initially disclosed in Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT") International Patent Application PCT/US98/07848 published October 27, 1998 Publication Number: WO 98/46070. Accordingly, new claims 40-77 introduce no new matter.

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Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully request prompt consideration and passage to issue of new claims 40-77 presented in this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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